

DEFENSE

Deterrence-Only Philosophy Emerges

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X system no matter what Russia does. It is needed as a part of a balanced American defense, they argue.

To Protect Weapons Only

But the President's message, and Pentagon sources, indicate that even if negotiations fail, the President is willing to buy only the smallest possible Nike-X defense—designed only to protect American retaliatory weapons and thereby make American deterrent threats somewhat more believable.

The installations would be at American missile and bomber bases—and possibly in the Washington area where government officials and the decision-making machinery are considered to be part of the retaliatory system.

Ordinary civilians would benefit from the contemplated missile defense only to the extent that they benefit from the survival of U.S. retaliatory weapons.

This decision is in accordance with the new administration conviction that nuclear wars cannot be fought with any real chance of survival—they can only be avoided.

Other Decisions

The deterrence-only philosophy is reflected in other budget decisions revealed today.

The Air Force was refused even a partial commitment to a proposed new long-range bomber, the AMSA (Advanced Manned Strategic Aircraft) or permission to produce the F-12 interceptor plane.

The Air Force is permitted only to continue early design work on the bomber. The interceptor will have to wait on development of an airborne control and warning system before it can even be considered.

The President's reasons: Another bomber and interceptor would not contribute much to deterrence or survival that missiles, smaller bombers and older interceptors won't provide.

The rest of the budget is essentially conservative in philosophy.

Vietnam Leveling-Off

The money will be enough, the President said, to "counter aggression in South Vietnam" and to "continue to enhance our ability to meet changing threats to our freedom and security elsewhere."

But the budget looks to a leveling off of the American effort in Vietnam. U.S. manpower in South Vietnam is expected to level off at about 475,000 men during the coming fiscal year. There are about 400,000 men there now, double the number a year ago.

Total military manpower will begin to level out after a sharp jump that started in mid-1965. The services then had 2.6 million men. Last summer they had 3 million. This summer it will be 3.4 million, but the new budget will push it only to 3.46 million men by mid-1968.

Air Force to Shrink

The Air Force actually will shrink a bit under the new budget as old bombers are phased out.

Army divisions will remain the same—17, including five in Vietnam.

The Navy will get 27 new ships in the budget, but the current one provides 35 comparable new ships. Naval officers are pleased, however, that the budget commits the President to a third nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

But Navy hopes for good progress on nuclear-power escort ships for the carriers were partially frustrated

are no such ships in the new budget, but Defense officials did say that some extra money voted last year for a nuclear-powered frigate will be used in the coming fiscal year.

The Army will get more helicopters, and the Air Force and Navy will get more tactical aircraft—more than enough, according to the Pentagon, to keep pace with losses of fighters and bombers in Vietnam.

Better Warheads

The budget provides for improvements to the big nuclear weapons. There will be no increase in numbers either of land-based ICBMs (1,050) or sea-based Polaris-type missiles (656), but the warheads on both will be upgraded.

A new missile for Polaris submarines, called the Poseidon, will begin production, and new Minuteman missiles will be installed. The purpose of the improvements is to further guarantee that American missiles will penetrate any possible enemy defenses and wipe out the enemy.

This should add to the American deterrence of general nuclear war, but the weapons are not being bought in a quantity to indicate any effort to be able to destroy enough enemy offensive weapons to permit the American society to survive. Defense officials say privately that the effort would be futile.

There are makings of a number of sharp disputes in the budget. Military leaders will protest the Nike-X decision—

both to postpone a decision and to buy only \$4 billion to \$5 billion defense under any circumstances, instead of the \$25 billion system (spent over 20 years) proposed by the Joint Chiefs.

They will complain about the bomber decision and the small nuclear-ship program. Unless circumstances change during the next few months, a majority in Congress is quite likely to support the chiefs on these issues. It did last year.

\$75.3 Billion Request

In order to get the \$73.1 billion to be spent in fiscal 1968, the President is asking for appropriations of \$75.3 billion. The rest of the money will be spent in subsequent years.

In order for spending in the current fiscal year, ending July 1, to reach almost \$70 billion, the President is asking now for a supplemental appropriation of \$12.3 billion for defense.

With all of this money, the end to the war in Vietnam is not yet in sight, defense officials said. The new budget assumes that the war will continue at roughly the same level on into fiscal 1969 (beginning July 1, 1968).

Unless the war changes drastically, another supplemental appropriation won't be necessary, defense officials said. But by the same token, there won't be a significant reduction in the almost \$2 billion a month bill to the taxpayers.